



Faculty of Social Sciences

## SOAN36, Social Policy in Europe, 15 credits

*Social Policy in Europe, 15 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the School of Social Work on 2011-10-12 and was last revised on 2011-10-12. . The revised syllabus applied from 2011-10-13. , spring semester 2012.

### General Information

The course is an elective course in the Master of Science Programme in Welfare Policies and Management. The course is also offered as a single subject course in Social Work at the second-cycle level and as a freestanding course.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Social Work

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

#### Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and deeper understanding of theories relevant to social work and social policy
- locate and demonstrate a deeper understanding of the varying processes within social policy development.

#### Competence and skills

- critically reflect on the use of theories in a social policy and social work setting and apply these theories in a European context

- actively apply the professional (academic, policy making and social work) skills in analysing and acting on theories of social work and social policy

### **Judgement and approach**

- make assessments of the professional role when acting in contentious arenas
- demonstrate insight of various actors within the field and demonstrate an awareness of the ethical implications of academic analyses, policy implementation and social work intervention.

### **Course content**

The aim of the course is to provide students with analytical tools that enhance their abilities in exploring and explaining policy making within social policy and its ties to practices of social work and social services. Both bottom up and top down perspectives are thoroughly discussed. In the course, the processes within social policy in social life are central. In particular, the course deals with theoretical discussions of varying modes in which social policy deals with social change at different levels.

This course consists of two major parts: one theoretical and one oriented at ongoing changes in current welfare states.

The first part of the course deals with theoretical discussions on social policy and social inclusion/exclusion (regimes, models, typologies) and notions such as recognition/redistribution/representation.

We examine how established models of social policy can be contrasted to new forms of social marginalisation at different levels (subnational, national, regional, European). Parallel to the transformation of the social structure, the nation state as the main provider (or regulative framework) for social policies is being rescaled at various levels, and at the same time non-public actors increasingly carry out the provision of welfare. Here, the emphasis is on changes in the governance of the provision of social policy, above all the interaction of the national and the European level.

The second part of the course will discuss ongoing social policy reforms, in Sweden and in a European perspective. Social policy in general and social work in particular is commonly defined by its handling of social consequences from the capitalist society's ways of working. The term social problem is often used to describe a state requiring some form of action. How the consequences are experienced, defined, and assessed differs by who is offered to provide an opinion as well as by who has the ability of controlling a situation. In this context, the residualizing of social problems to individuals' or groups' problems is supported by one end of an ideological policy direction, while social rights as collective responsibilities are on the other. An ambition is therefore to let people, active in various levels of organizations in the field, provide challenging focuses to the questions of social welfare; consumers, welfare and case managers, welfare entrepreneurs, policymakers, and voters. Another ambition is to support students in comparative analyses of social policy development, in Sweden and elsewhere.

## Course design

The course presents a variety of pedagogical tools making the course student-centred, thus enhancing student participation in the creative process of learning. The course consists of a combination of lectures, workshops and seminars. The lectures have an interdisciplinary focus and students are encouraged to search, analyse and present literature themselves. Students give oral and/or written presentations of the literature and the specific topics in seminars.

The seminars and workshops require compulsory attendance.

## Assessment

Assessment

The assessment is based on

- active participation in seminars and workshops
- oral presentations individually or in groups
- written assignments and reflections on the required reading

Details of assessment on the course are to be determined by the departmental board and communicated a month before the course starts and posted on the course website.

An opportunity for re-examination will be offered at the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be offered at a later date.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show **acceptable** results. For the grade of D the student must show **satisfactory** results. For the grade of C the student must show **good** results. For the grade of B the student must show **very good** results. For the grade of A the student must show **excellent** results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown **unacceptable** results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

## Entry requirements

Bachelor's degree (180 credits) in Social Work, or equivalent. For equivalent at least 90 credits in Social Work must be included.

English B (advanced) language proficiency shall be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

- IELTS score of 6.5 (with no section less than 5.5)
- TOEFL paper-based score of 4.5 (scale 1-6) in written test and a total score of 575; internet based score of 20 (scale 0-30) and a total score of 90
- Cambridge/Oxford – Advanced Certificate of Proficiency
- A Bachelor's degree from a university where English is the only language of instruction, according to the International Handbook of Universities
- A pass on English course B (Swedish upper secondary school).

### **Further information**

The course replaces SOAN26 Theories of Social Work and Social Policy in European Policy Making.

## Subcourses in SOAN36, Social Policy in Europe

Applies from V12

1101 Social Policy in Europe, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A